

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A single layer ground cover for preventing weed growth comprising:
2 a fabric providing at least one degradable portion running lengthwise of
3 the fabric and having opposed edges; and
4 a non-degradable portion adjacent said opposed edges of said
5 degradable portion, wherein said degradable portion comprises from about
6 5% to about 75% of the area of said ground cover, and wherein said
7 degradable portion substantially degrades before said non-degradable portion
8 after exposure to ambient conditions.
- 1 2. The ground cover of claim 1, wherein said ground cover is a woven fabric and
2 said degradable portion comprises degradable warp yarns and non-
3 degradable weft yarns and said non-degradable portion comprises non-
4 degradable warp and weft yarns.
- 1 3. The ground cover of claim 2, wherein said at least one degradable portion
2 consists essentially of a polyolefin and said at least one non-degradable
3 portion comprises a polyolefin and a UV stabilizer.
- 1 4. The ground cover of claim 3, wherein said polyolefin is polypropylene.
- 1 5. The ground cover of claim 3, wherein said UV stabilizer is selected from the
2 group consisting of carbon blacks, hindered amines, and mixtures thereof.
- 1 6. The ground cover of claim 6, wherein said degradable portions comprise from
2 about 15% to about 50% of the area of said ground cover.
- 1 7. The ground cover of claim 1, wherein said degradable portion substantially
2 degrades within about 12 to about 24 months after exposure to ambient
3 conditions.

1 8. The ground cover of claim 1, having a plurality of said degradable portions
2 at repeating intervals across the width of said fabric, separated by non-
3 degradable portions.

1 9. A method for facilitating tree growth and preventing weed growth
2 comprising:
3 providing a ground cover comprising at least one degradable portion
4 and at least one non-degradable portion;
5 locating the ground cover on a section of ground to be planted;
6 cutting a hole in said degradable portion of the ground cover;
7 planting a plant within said hole; and
8 covering said ground cover with soil sufficiently to at least bury it.

1 10. A method for facilitating tree growth, as set forth in claim 9, wherein said
2 step of providing a ground cover comprises selecting a single layer ground
3 cover for preventing weed growth comprising
4 a fabric providing at least one degradable portion running lengthwise of
5 the fabric and having opposed edges; and
6 a non-degradable portion adjacent said opposed edges of said
7 degradable portion, wherein said degradable portion comprises from about
8 5% to about 75% of the area of said ground cover, and wherein said
9 degradable portion substantially degrades before said non-degradable portion
10 after exposure to ambient conditions.